

The Office Action states that Elliott has this feature, and that it would have been obvious to combine Janning with Elliott.

Elliott, however, was filed on Nov. 8, 2000, and does not appear to claim priority to any earlier applications. Applicants filed this application in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on Oct. 25, 2000, which is before Elliott's filing date. Even if this application did not claim priority to earlier applications, as it does, this application would predate Elliott. Elliott therefore should not be prior art applicable to the present application, which should render moot all the rejections of the pending claims in view of Elliott.

### CONCLUSION


Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims in light of the foregoing Response, and respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned agent would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

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Tel. No.: (617) 248-7176  
Fax No.: (617) 248-7100

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Ira V. Heffan  
Attorney for Applicants  
Testa, Hurwitz, & Thibeault, LLP  
High Street Tower  
125 High Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110